

# The Transponder

## Special Interest Articles:

- Randy Evans Wins. Pg 1
- 24/7 Dispatch 365 days a year. Pg 4

**“Join us at the Forest City offices on 24 Dec for Pizza, Wings and Beverages. 11am –till 2 pm. Hope to see everyone there”**

## Safety

### Highlights:

- Pre-Trip
- Inspections 2
- Winter Hazards 2
- Slip Injuries 2

Forest City Transportation Resources Inc. (519) 652-0677

## Newsletter Named

As you can see, the Forest City Transportation Newsletter now has a new name. You are reading Volume 1, Issue 1 of “The Transponder”. First and foremost it must be told that it was a difficult decision considering all of the excellent submissions. It was really nice to see the interest and the ones from the kids were great. “The Transponder” was chosen to signify the

transportation industry and our commitment to the use of technology. Now you must be wondering who the lucky recipient of the Forest City Jacket is. Congratulations go out to Randy Evans, one of our on-call DZ drivers. Way to go Randy, winning entry.

Now that the “Transponder” is working we need your contributions. This is not only a means of getting

company information out to you, but it also a means of getting input from all members of the Forest City Team. Any ideas, suggestions or submissions for the newsletter can be forwarded to the office. We cannot guarantee that we can print everything, but we will sure try.

***“It’s everyone’s newsletter so let’s all take advantage of it”***

## Christmas Message

Once again the festive season is upon us. It is a time for reflection, relaxation and most of all an opportunity to celebrate with our loved ones.

Forest City Transportation has completed its 5<sup>th</sup> year of business and it was a very successful one. This is a direct reflection of the professionalism and dedication of our drivers who are out there day in and day out ensuring that our customer’s freight is delivered safely, efficiently and on time. With the

upcoming opportunity to rest, recharge our batteries and most importantly be with those that mean the most to us, let us all reflect on our accomplishments in 2004 and look to the challenges of 2005.

On Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> of December I hope that you will take the time to stop in so that I can personally thank you for a job well done.

From Tammie, myself and our daughters Cassandra and Samantha, we wish

you and yours the best during this holiday season and hope that you have a very prosperous New Year.

***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year***  
**Jeff**



## Pre-Trip Inspections



*"Your blood pressure increases as you await your fate."*

You get the call from Forest City Dispatch. You have gotten the request to jump behind the wheel and safely deliver our customers unit and the freight to a desired location. Once at the customer's yard you find your unit. The circle check is completed, the unit is coupled and you are on your way. Just east of London you notice the scale lights are flashing, Putnam is on a blitz and they signal you to go

around back. The thought that is going through your mind is will the unit I am driving pass the inspection? Will I be put out of service? Did I check everything on my circle check? Your blood pressure increases as you await your fate. Once you pull up the MTO Inspector goes to the side of your cab and says "Your in luck, we are simply doing a level 2 so lets take a look at the lights, tires and your paperwork and we

can get you on your way." 10 minutes later you are heading eastbound on the 401. Now think back. Did you do a proper pre-trip, or did you simply thump the tires. Would a true professional driver kick the tires and get into an unfamiliar unit with out ensuring that it was in safe operating condition. A few minutes at the beginning of a trip could save you fines, delays, breakdowns and possibly a life.

## Winter Hazards



In the Transportation Industry we assume for the most part that dealing with "Winter Hazards" is putting up with bad road conditions, frozen equipment, and should you be operating a flat deck actually having to tarp a load! Well I would like you to consider a hazard that is not always obvious but one of the most cherished possessions and clearly the future of this great

country of ours. I am talking about the children and youth of our communities.

They all look so cute walking down the street with their toques pulled down tight over their ears, the younger ones with their hoods up. Some of them looking like the Michelin Man as they waddle down the sidewalk or edge of the road. Have you ever considered that

they can barely hear you, see you and their mobility is quite limited. Also consider that in the dead of winter most snow banks are higher than children are tall. Unseen hazards if not observed and anticipated could change your life forever. Remember when in heavily populated areas always expect the unexpected. Drive defensively and keep an eye out for our future.

## Slip and Fall Injuries



Slip and fall injuries are a significant contributor to off work injuries. They can happen while on the job, at home or simply running errands. With colder weather upon us please watch for slippery patches. To help prevent "Slip and Fall" injuries

make sure that you wear footwear that provides good traction. When getting in and out of the cab of a truck or vehicle always maintain 3 points of contact. Finally, use common sense when out and about during the cold weather.

### FAST FACT

Did you know that if a person falls over without any assistance or force their head will strike the ground at a speed of 11 mph. Be careful out there!!

*From the desk of Web Cressman, General Manager*

## Rider Policy

Did you know that Forest City Transportation and its clients have a no rider policy? The primary reason is for safety and insurance purposes. It would be tragic if you had a loved one as a passenger and were involved in an accident. If that person that you care for so much was severely injured, how would you feel?

It is a simple policy –  
**“No Riders, No Regrets”.**

cressman@fctri.com

## Communication

Just a reminder about how important communication is to our jobs.

If for any reason you will be late for your run or you are unable to go in, please call Forest City Transportation at least 1 hour before your regular starting time. We can then let the client know and if necessary replace you for the shift.

Please keep in touch with our client's dispatch on a regular basis during your shift. If you receive instructions from us or dispatch and you do not understand, then ask until you do.

There are no stupid questions, but there could be stupid mistakes as a result of not asking a question.

### Driver Kit Bag

In your Driver Kit Bag you should have: a good map of South Western Ontario including its cities and towns. A Map of Toronto would be a good addition. Our client would definitely appreciate this and you will portray the image of being a true Professional Transport Driver.

## The Drive Line by Alan Browett, Driver Representative

Well, the season of great hope and happiness is once again almost upon us. It's a time to reflect on the progress we've made during 2004 and to look forward to making 2005 even more rewarding. It's the season of goodwill, but why not dedicate ourselves to that noble ideal for the whole year, and not just at this time of

year? It can be easier to do than we think. With safety utmost in our minds, now that the white stuff is here, let's all look forward to Health, Happiness and Prosperity, now and in the New Year!

# PEACE




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*It's a time to reflect on the progress we've made during 2004*

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We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
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## The Last Word

A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment. Suddenly, the man realized that the next day, he would need his

wife to wake him at 5:00 AM for an early morning business flight. Not wanting to be the first to break the silence (and LOSE), he wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5:00 AM." He left it where he knew she would find it. The next morning, the man woke

up, only to discover it was 9:00 AM and he had missed his flight. Furious, he was about to go and see why his wife hadn't wakened him, when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed. The paper said,

"It is 5:00 AM. Wake up."

## "24/7 Dispatch 365 days a year"

Don't worry dispatch is here. No matter what time of the day or night there is always someone on duty to take your call. During business hours, Web, Jeff, Cindy or Allan will help you. After hours, during weekends and holidays

Jaye or Sissy will be there to answer the phones. Remember, we're here 24/7 365 days a year!!

## *Timeliness of Time Sheets...*

They say the best way to upset or annoy a driver is to make an error on their pay or actually not pay them. Please realize that for the Payroll Dept to accurately complete,

verify and electronically deposit on time, you must have your **time sheets in by noon on Monday**. If it is any later, then you are taking your chances. We ask that you keep that in

mind and forward your time sheets to Cindy no later than noon Monday. **Thanks in Advance.**

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**"Join us at the  
Forest City  
offices on 24  
Dec for Pizza,  
Wings and  
Beverages.  
11am -till 2 pm.  
Hope to see  
everyone  
there"**

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